

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 2, 8 and 11 have been amended. Claim 1 and 3-7 have been canceled.

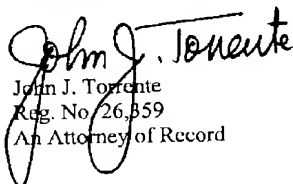
The Examiner has indicated that applicant's claims 2 and 8-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has now amended claims 2, 8 and 11 to place them in independent form. These claims are now believed allowable. Also, the other remaining claims in the application, i.e., claims 9-10, depend from independent claim 8, and thus are also believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, all the claims in the application are now allowable. Reconsideration of the claims and passage of same to issue is thus respectfully requested.

Dated: September 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

ROBIN, BLECKER & DALEY
330 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017
(212) 682-9640


John J. Torrente
Reg. No. 26,359
An Attorney of Record